

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 25, 29, 34-35, 40-46 and 48-49 remain in this application. Claims 9, 13, 20, 24, 26-28, 30-33, 37-39 and 47 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 4-5, 10, 15, 17-18, 22-23 and 36 were previously canceled. Claims 1 and 45 as amended contain the subject matter of former claims 13 and 20, respectively. Claims 6-8 have been amended to be consistent with amended claim 1 and new claim 49 has been added. Claims 21, 40, 41 and 46 have been amended for purposes of clarification. The dependencies of claims 14, 21, 28, 34, 35, 40, 41 and 43 have been revised in view of claim cancellations. New claim 49 contains language similar to that of claim 34 but depends from claim 45.

The Office Action indicates that claims 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This Amendment is intended to place the remaining claims in condition for allowance in response to this statement in the Office Action.

It is noted however that the language of intervening claim 2 has not been placed in independent claim 1 and the language of intervening claim 46 has not been placed in claim 45, because this language is not believed to be necessary for allowance in view of the addition to the independent claims of the language contained in claims 13 and 20. However, if the Examiner believes that further Amendment of each independent claim to

Appl. No.: 10/716,232  
Amdt. dated: September 18, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of: May 17, 2006

include the subject matter of the intervening claim is required, he is asked to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Sumner

By: Diane F. Covello  
Diane F. Covello  
Registration No. 34,164  
Alix, Yale & Ristas, LLP  
Attorney for Applicant  
Telephone: 860-527-9211

Date: September 18, 2006  
750 Main Street, Suite 1400  
Hartford, CT 06103-2721  
Our Ref: ABBLUM/266/US